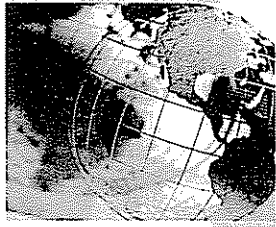


DEMOCRATIC POLICING



Exchange

VERA INSTITUTE
LIBRARY

A Regional Push for Police Reform in Central and Eastern Europe

BY MIRIAM AUKERMAN

Before 1989, Central and Eastern European police forces served the communist parties in power and exercised tremendous control over the everyday lives of ordinary citizens. During the last decade, how much has changed? To find out, in 1997 the Hungarian Helsinki Committee launched the Police in Transition Project, with support from the Ford Foundation.

Has public safety replaced political order as the primary goal of policing? Have the broad powers of police been curtailed, or have rising crime rates and public fear of criminals allowed police to extend their authority even further? How have police reforms—and their effectiveness—differed across the region? Do Central and Eastern European police forces now meet European Union standards? The project engaged experts from human rights groups in Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and the former Republic of Yugoslavia,

along with scholars from Germany and the United Kingdom, to help answer these questions. Participants completed extensive surveys and prepared reports on changes in their nations' police forces. The results, collected in a comprehensive database that also includes English translations of police-related legislation, was published as a CD-ROM in 1998.

The challenge of reform

The culmination of this process was a three-day conference, held in Budapest in February 1999, that brought together project participants, policing scholars, human rights workers, senior police officers, and government officials to discuss the survey results and develop recommendations for the future.


The opening session underlined a point the national reports make clear: Police reform in Central and Eastern Europe has been slow and difficult. Istvan Szikinger of the Budapest-based Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute (COLPI) argued that in most of the formerly socialist countries, no clear transition from totalitarian to democratic forms of policing has occurred. Similarly, Ferenc Koszeg of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee suggested that police forces in the region have largely retained their old functions, structures, and attitudes. According to

INSIDE

3 HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLICING IN ARGENTINA

7 NEWS AND TRENDS

10 RECENT GRANTS IN POLICING



Has public safety replaced political order as the primary goal of policing? How have police reforms—and their effectiveness—differed across the region?

Koszeg, a new slogan — fighting criminals — has replaced the old one — protecting the socialist system — as the way to justify extensive, and arguably increasing, police powers.

Even as they acknowledged ongoing problems, participants wrestled with a wide range of possible approaches to police reform. For example, efforts to address police brutality in the region have focused primarily on criminal and administrative prohibitions. Participants discussed whether civil liability or psychological counseling for police might present effective alternatives or additions to these sanctions.

Producing guidelines for reform

A primary purpose of the meeting was to develop guidelines for police reform, which could then serve as a blueprint for future action by police departments, governments, international agencies, and human rights activists. Although some draft provisions provoked controversy, the discussion was marked by a striking degree of consensus. “Basically there was no major disagreement among participants — including police officials from Hungary, who took part in the discussions,” COLPI’s Szikinger says. Andras Kadar of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee also highlights the police role, which kept the recommendations from appearing to be “a one-sided bunch of sentimental ideas put together by enthusiastic human rights activists. Naturally, the human rights perspective constitutes their basic approach, but [the recommendations] also reflect the arguments, ideas, and points of view of the police, whose task these days in this region is anything but easy.”

In fact, one recommendation, which some participants felt should be omitted, was ultimately retained as a gesture of support for the police. The admonition in question — that police officers should be entitled to respect from the communities they serve — is unenforceable, as some conferees pointed out. But most participants wanted to retain the provision to show police, as Kadar puts it, that “human rights NGOs do not look at them as enemies.”

The Budapest Recommendations


The 18 recommendations that emerged are wide-ranging and ambitious, in keeping with the conference’s agenda. They include the following reforms:

- ▶ Incorporation of international and European Union standards on policing into domestic laws
- ▶ Civilian oversight and independent mechanisms for investigating police misconduct
- ▶ Demilitarization of police forces
- ▶ Increased local government responsibility for public security
- ▶ An unconditional and immediate end to torture
- ▶ Removal of judicial powers vested in police
- ▶ Adequate remuneration for police officers, as well as respect from the communities they serve
- ▶ The right for detainees to inform a doctor, lawyer, relative or third party upon arrest
- ▶ Increased research on innovative law enforcement methods, such as community policing, and adaptation of such methods to the particular circumstances of Central and Eastern Europe.

The Hungarian Helsinki Committee plans to distribute the Budapest Recommendations broadly, to government officials, human rights advocates, policing researchers, and anyone else interested in promoting police reform. The 50-odd signatories from 13 countries hope that the document’s scope, together with the diversity of its framers and supporters, will make it a useful resource not only in Central and Eastern Europe, but throughout the world — for anyone, as Kadar says, working to “further the democratic development of the police.”

The Budapest Recommendations will be available on the web site of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (www.ihf-hr.org). The Police in Transition CD-ROM may be obtained from the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (helsinki@c3.hu).

Miriam Aukerman is an associate at the Vera Institute of Justice.



Bridging Human Rights and Effective Policing in Argentina

BY HEATHER WARD

The Buenos Aires-based Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (Center for Legal and Social Studies, or CELS) is charting new ground for civil society organizations in Latin America. Since 1979, CELS has documented human rights abuses by the police and military forces and pressed the government to observe international human rights standards. Recently, however, CELS has begun working hand in hand with municipal and provincial government officials. The group is helping them change the policing practices at the root of human rights abuse and improve how they provide safety as a public service.

CELS's origin lies in a single family tragedy: the "disappearance" of 24-year-old Monica Mignone during the height of Argentina's military regime. Her father, Emilio Mignone, a lawyer and professor, founded the group to provide legal and social counseling to the families of other victims. Over the years, CELS has expanded its advocacy, research, and litigation to include a wider range of social and economic rights.


As democracy has gradually taken hold in Argentina, civilian government institutions and domestic security forces have replaced the military in maintaining social order. The lawyers and researchers at CELS have kept vigilant watch over these entities and publicized important cases. For instance, they led the campaign to bring to justice the killers of José Luis Cabezas, a photojournalist who was investigating police corruption. They have also become some of the country's leading experts in issues of crime, public security, and police reform.

Responding to the fear of crime

CELS has begun focusing more attention on crime and security because Argentine citizens are increasingly worried about these issues. Although up-to-date statistics are hard to come by, there is a clear public perception that crime is on the upswing. Indeed, today crime is the issue of third highest concern to Argentines, behind unemployment and education. Yet despite low confidence in police institutions, citizens are demanding that police take more aggressive action against crime and suspected criminals. In fact, a recent poll found that 76 percent of Argentines support "heavy-handed crime-fighting policies."

As a result, legislators and executive officials feel mounting pressure to take a stronger stand against crime and to give broader authority to the country's police forces. For instance, President Carlos Saúl Menem recently overstepped the municipal legislature of Buenos Aires and issued a decree reintroducing police powers to stop, search, and detain people accused of such minor offenses as prostitution, public drunkenness, and loitering. Legislators and human rights organizations fear the return of the police *edictos* may threaten the country's 18 years of progress towards democracy.

In 1990, CELS created a special program in institutional violence, citizen security, and human rights. Under the leadership of Sofia Tiscornia, an anthropologist at the University of Buenos Aires, the program's researchers gather information about individual cases of police misconduct, examine legislative norms that guide police behavior, study options for



Argentines are demanding that police take more aggressive action against crime. CELS and its Buenos Aires government partners hope that citizens will take a more active role in their own security and rely less on heavy police enforcement.

strengthening democratic control over police, and analyze the growing problem of insecurity in Argentina. This and other work at CELS is supported by the Ford Foundation.

Partnering with government

Recently CELS has begun working directly with police and government officials, trying to help them find ways to deliver effective crime prevention and control that do not interfere with the rights of citizens. For instance, CELS and the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety of Buenos Aires province signed a cooperative agreement under which CELS will offer research and technical assistance to support an extensive police reform process begun by Governor Eduardo Duhalde in December 1998. Officials in the ministry, which oversees the province's 70,000 police personnel, are now struggling to decentralize the police command to 18 *departamentales* and help local commanders become better managers, while simultaneously fighting the upward trend in crime and instilling a cleaner, more respectful police culture.

CELS hopes to enter into a similar agreement with the City of Buenos Aires's Program for Crime and Violence Prevention. Although the city does not command its own police force (Buenos Aires, or the Federal District, is served by the Federal Police), officials still feel pressure from citizens to respond to crime.

During the last year, the Program for Crime and Violence Prevention has tried to strengthen and expand the city's 15 Security Councils (*Consejos de Seguridad*), associations of community leaders who

meet twice a month to discuss local crime problems. The program's staff hopes to work with CELS on projects that will build greater capacity within the councils to analyze and resolve their communities' crime and disorder problems, and, ultimately, work as partners with the police to achieve reductions in crime and the fear of crime. With this kind of support, city officials hope, citizens will take a more active role in their own security and rely less on heavy police enforcement as a solution.

A new direction for advocacy

In March, Martín Abregú, CELS's executive director, was discussing the prospects for civilian-led police reforms with politicians and scholars. "Just four years ago," he noted, "we could not even have had this conversation."

It is an important point. CELS's attention to crime control, public safety, and policing represents a significant shift in the region. In the past, Argentine citizens and civil society organizations were typically barred from these issues by authoritarian regimes. Many of these groups still find themselves excluded or, for historical reasons, choose not to work closely with the police and security forces.

But there is a growing political will among provincial and municipal governments to improve the quality of police services. CELS has chosen to take advantage of the new opportunities this shift offers by forging partnerships with enlightened officials who share its vision of more accountable and effective policing in Argentina.

Heather Ward is a planner at the Vera Institute of Justice.



From the Field: Governance and Crime in Mexico

Kimberli Keith Brown, program officer in the Ford Foundation's Mexico field office, discusses her recent thinking about public safety programming with Heather Ward of the Vera Institute of Justice.

HEATHER WARD: Your office has become increasingly interested in programs that address the public safety aspect of governance. Why?

KIMBERLI KEITH BROWN: In Mexico there are a couple of major challenges to democratic governance, and public security is one of them. People feel that crime is out of control and government isn't doing anything about it. In the state of Chihuahua, for example, the incumbent party lost the elections for governor because of the crime issue, even though they had an impressive record on a number of other public policy issues.

This is an issue that can make or break governments. In Chihuahua what we saw was one party losing, not an example of a democratic system being brought down. Still, in cases where democracies are incipient or in transition, widespread public sentiment that government cannot control problems such as crime and insecurity can lead to an erosion of confidence in democratic governments more generally.

HW: When we last spoke, you were interested in three particular projects in Mexico.

KKB: I am still exploring three ideas, none of which relates directly to police reform. The first is to create a national research consortium on citizen security issues to foster a more active exchange of information and stud-

ies. We've found that there is some excellent research being done, but very few forums for discussion of ongoing work and research results. The group would start off small in order to facilitate a more meaningful dialogue, and perhaps produce a series of working papers on topics the researchers feel are of broad concern.

I've also been talking with two researchers at the Research Center for Development (CIDAC), a public policy research center. CIDAC is one of the few organizations in Mexico where the associates actively contribute to public discourse by writing editorials and newspaper articles in addition to scholarly articles and books. The two researchers I am talking with have been trying to pick apart the prosecution system to examine the flow of cases and the caseload at each stage as a way of understanding where the problems and bottlenecks lie. They would like to take their preliminary research further by doing more in-depth case studies in two to three state prosecutors' offices. They are also interested in conducting a national crime or victimization survey to determine the amount of unreported crime as a way to help people understand the limitations of the numbers reported.

The third project is in the Miguel Hidalgo district here in Mexico City, where there is a very interesting experiment taking place: a community dialogue sponsored by the *delegación*, or district government, in close cooperation with the city police and a couple of human rights organizations. (One of them, the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights, is a Ford Foundation grantee.) Several months ago, the district government convened a meeting of residents to discuss their public safety concerns directly with police

In Mexico there are a couple of major challenges to democratic governance, and public security is one of them. This is an issue that can make or break governments.

Recent Publications

officials. The first couple of sessions between citizens and police were tense, but they're making progress now. I'd like to explore whether this can be a model and, if so, try to understand what are the positive or successful features, and what things can be done differently the next time.

HW: After your three preliminary program ideas, do you have a sense of what your next steps will be?

KKB: I don't. I see the three initiatives in Mexico as experiments in public safety and policing. These are three balls that, once they start rolling, could show us what potential exists for further program development. They could also help us develop contacts that may open up new areas of work. Ideally, we would find some way to work more directly on improving the system.

HW: Do you have a sense of how receptive the police, or other government officials, are likely to be?

KKB: That remains to be seen. My guess is that there is tremendous interest. They're scrambling to deal with the crime problem, and they know it's the number-one issue on the public's agenda.

However, I am concerned that what is missing is a willingness to look for help from the public. The three programs I've mentioned could remedy this because they're geared toward providing information not only for academics and nongovernmental specialists, but for policy makers and government as well. For instance, the research group wouldn't just fund researchers to share their findings among the ten or so people involved in the consortium, but rather to look actively at what sorts of issues are on the public agenda and how they might contribute to advancing understanding of those issues.

I think part of the resistance from public officials is that they have received a lot of strong criticism over the crime issue. There aren't many people who will pull a chair up to the table and say, "We'd like to help you solve this." I hope our grantmaking will encourage a more constructive dialogue.

Agathocleous, Alexis, *Prosecuting Police Misconduct: Reflections on the Role of the U.S. Civil Rights Division*, New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 1998.

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) and Human Rights Watch, *La Inseguridad Policial* [Exacerbating Insecurity: Police Brutality in Argentina], Buenos Aires: Eudeba, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 1998. [English summary available through Human Rights Watch in Washington, D.C.]

Chukwuma, Innocent, ed., *Law Enforcement Review*, a semiannual magazine published by the Centre for Law Enforcement Education (CLEEN) in Lagos, Nigeria.

Davis, Robert C. and Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, *Respectful and Effective Policing: Two Examples in the South Bronx*, New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 1999.

Frühling, Hugo, ed., *Control Democrático en el Mantenimiento de la Seguridad Interior* [Democratic Control of Internal Security], Santiago: Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo, 1998.

Frühling, Hugo, ed., *Policia y Sociedad Democrática*, a newsletter published by the Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo in Santiago, Chile.

de Mesquita Neto, Paulo and Beatriz Stella Affonso, *Policamento Comunitário: A Experiência em São Paulo* [Community Policing: The Experience in São Paulo], São Paulo: Núcleo de Estudos da Violência da Universidade de São Paulo, 1998.

National Institute of Justice, "Civilian Police and Multinational Peacekeeping—A Workshop Series: A Role for Democratic Policing," Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice (cosponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Police Executive Research Forum), January 1999.

Neild, Rachel M., *Themes and Debates in Public Security Reform*, Washington, D.C.: Washington Office on Latin America, 1998.

Piqueras, Manuel, ed., *Buen Gobierno, Seguridad Pública y Crimen Violento* [Good Government, Public Safety and Violent Crime], Lima: Instituto de Defensa Legal, 1998.

Policing News & Trends

Developments in Policing

For recent Ford grants in this area, see *Grants List*, pp. 10-11. **BRAZIL:** Brazilian Association of Post-Graduate Training and Research in the Social Sciences; Carioca Institute of Criminology; Legal Assistance Office for Popular Organizations; Center for the Study of Violence; Muniz and Musumeci; **EASTERN EUROPE:** Czech Helsinki Committee; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Women's Rights Center; **SOUTH AFRICA:** University of Cape Town

CHILE: More Carabineros to fight crime Chile's Interior Ministry announced 11 January 1999 that 12,000 new members would join the national uniformed police service, the *Carabineros*, over the next three years as part of a plan to improve public security. Besides adding new recruits, the plan will free existing police personnel for increased patrol activities by reducing the scope of their responsibilities, delegating tasks to civilian personnel, and dividing the workday into three shifts instead of four.

CHIP News, 12 January 1999

GHANA: Police commander calls for respect for constitutional rights The Brong Ahafo regional police commander, Safo-Kwarteng, called on police personnel to respect citizens' constitutional rights and to exercise self-discipline in order to win public support and cooperation. He urged the public to report any police misconduct to the regional police command, but also deplored the uncooperative attitude among civilians that undermines police work.

Ghana Review International, 22 Feb 1999

MEXICO: Mexico creates new national police force On 11 December 1998, the Mexican Senate approved the creation of a new police force, the Federal Preventive Police, which combines the existing federal highway, judicial, and immigration police. The new force will be led by a commissioner, possibly a civilian, who will be appointed by the president, but who will report to the Public Ministry. The U.S. Federal Bureau of

Investigation will provide training and professionalization programs to the new force and establish mechanisms for exchanging information between the agencies. During the same session, the senate also increased penalties for public officials convicted of corruption. *Reforma*, 12 December 1998, 15 January, 11 March 1999

MEXICO: More police in Mexico City's high-crime neighborhoods Mexico City Mayor Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas and police commissioner Alejandro Gertz Manero plan to reduce crime by introducing more police patrols in high-crime areas. This approach has already been tested in three neighborhoods of the Benito Juárez district, where crime fell 30 percent after units went on patrol. The mayor hopes that putting more police on the beat will increase interactions between police and citizens and get the public more involved in fighting crime. Civilian authorities in each district will coordinate the work of the new units, though they will remain under the administrative command of the city's police force. In December, Gertz announced his intention to expand the police force by 3,000 and to significantly increase the police budget. *Reforma*, 11 December 1998, 6 March 1999

RUSSIA: Anticorruption efforts fail As of November 1998, about 5,500 Russian officials, including police, were being investigated for bribery. Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin warned that the country's continuing economic problems were creating a breeding ground for further corruption, even though Russia's police had launched a massive campaign against corruption, including in its own ranks. Stepashin called for increased salaries for police and other officials and expressed particular concern over corruption "at the grassroots level" among traffic police and other "various small offices." *Moscow Tribune*, 4 November 1998

UGANDA: Police are most corrupt government service A survey by the Inspector General of Government found that the police were the most corrupt government service in Uganda. Speaking at a 19 November 1998 workshop attended by foreign donor institutions, the IGG requested Shs 2.4 billion (US \$1,586,777) to "eliminate" government corruption. The money would go toward salary increases, investigations of corruption cases, prosecutor training, and corruption awareness programs. *The Monitor*, 22 November 1998

SOUTH AFRICA: Police Service chief steps down South African Police Service (SAPS) Chief Executive Officer Meyer Kahn will step down at the end of July. Kahn defended the ability of SAPS to curb crime and refuted charges of widespread corruption, claiming that the success of the Anti-Corruption Unit has given the false impression that corruption is more prevalent among police than in society as a whole. Kahn asserted that the police force is better managed now than it was in July 1997, when he assumed his post. *Daily Mail and Guardian*, 17 Feb 1999

State Oversight

For recent Ford grants in this area, see *Grants List*, pp. 10-11. **RUSSIA:** St. Petersburg Institute of Law

AFRICA: Institute sets regional anti-crime agenda, calls for support Uganda's vice president appealed for financial and political support for the United Nations African Institute for Prevention of Crime (UNAFRI, part of the UN's global network of criminal justice institutions) at a meeting on 6 December 1998. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a collective position among the 52 African states for the 10th UN congress on crime prevention, criminal justice, and treatment of offenders, to be held next year in Vienna. The meeting identified shared crime problems (including violence against women, child abuse, and cor-

Policing News & Trends

ruption), as well as shared objectives (such as reducing unemployment, consolidating the rule of law, and developing fair and equitable crime prevention strategies).

The Monitor, 8 December 1998

ARGENTINA: Police authority restored on quality-of-life crimes President Carlos Menem restored *edictos*, which grant police broad authority to stop and detain people suspected of such activities as prostitution, public drunkenness, and verbal harassment, in the City of Buenos Aires. The *edictos* had been eliminated in 1998 by municipal legislation amid arguments that they were unconstitutional and contributed to many unlawful arrests. City officials and legal scholars questioned the legality of Menem's intervention, claiming it violates the city's autonomy and asserting he had political motives.

Pagina 12, 4 and 5 March 1999

ARGENTINA: Police reforms in Mendoza The governor of Mendoza, in an agreement with the province's two national legislators, has initiated a series of police reforms that includes the removal of 600 top officials, the creation of a ministry of justice and security, and the appointment of a legislative committee that will oversee the police reforms. The reforms come in response to growing public concern about crime and infractions committed by members of the province's police force.

Clarín, 30 December 1998, 6 January 1999

BRAZIL: Police ombudsperson appointed in Rio de Janeiro Julita Lemgruber, a former director of the Department of Corrections of Rio de Janeiro state, was installed as Rio's ombudsperson for police on 15 March 1999. The following day, she opened a toll-free hotline for citizens to report police abuse. Since 1997, several states have passed laws creating the post of police ombudsperson. In Pará, São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and now Rio de Janeiro, the posts are filled and operational.

Jornal do Brasil, 16 March 1999, *InterPress*, 11 December 1998

BRAZIL: Rio governor launches gun-control plan On 23 March 1999, Rio de Janeiro's new governor, Anthony Garotinho, launched a plan to reduce the number of small arms in circulation, estimated at more than 600,000. Garotinho referred to the plan as a "zero tolerance" strategy against guns. Nearly 1,200 military police have been assigned to enforce the plan, which includes searches of cars and residences, as well as a registry for firearms owned by both civilians and police.

Jornal do Brasil, 16 March 1999

CZECH REPUBLIC: Over 300 police officers charged with crimes in 1998

Three hundred six members of the Czech Republic's national police force were charged with criminal offenses in 1998, a 25 percent increase from 1997, according to Interior Ministry Inspectorate chief Mikulas Tomin. Tomin claimed the figures merely represented "the tip of the iceberg." The most common charge—36 percent—was abuse of public office. Another common offense was fining drivers for traffic violations, then destroying or failing to issue the ticket and pocketing the money. Half of the crimes were committed off duty.

Czech News Agency (CTK) National News Wire, 11 March 1999

INDIA: New police-monitoring panel proposed

Stressing the need for "insulating" the investigation wings of the police from "external and political pressures," the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has recommended establishing a police security and integrated commission (PSIC), a nonstatutory advisory authority, to improve policing in India. The district police complaints authorities would examine complaints about police misconduct, including arbitrary detention and arrest and custodial violence. In its recommendation, made to the Supreme Court, the NHRC also pointed out that protecting police from political pressures would help them better perform their investigations.

The Times of India, 17 March 1999

INDIA: "Human rights cells" to be placed in state police headquarters

Responding to increasing custodial violence, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) announced on 9 March the launch of "human rights cells" in state police headquarters. The cells are to be headed by an officer not below the rank of inspector general of police or director general of police. The NHRC will be consulted in the nomination process, but the officers will report to the state governments. The NHRC chair, Justice M. N. Venkatachaliah, noted that the majority of complaints received by the commission pertain to police brutality and custodial violence.

The Times of India, 10 March 1999

SOUTH AFRICA: U.S. Department of Justice offers to help fight crime

Rampant crime in South Africa has spurred the United States to offer its expertise in fighting juvenile crime, white collar crime, gangs, and domestic violence. The initiative is headed by Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. To improve prosecutors' conviction rates, U.S. lawyers will be sent to the National Director of Prosecutions to reopen difficult cases, and South African lawyers may travel to the United States for training. Reno has recommended that grassroots crime-fighting structures, such as community policing forums, be improved with U.S. help.

Daily Mail and Guardian, 19 Feb 1999

UNITED STATES: Los Angeles's first police watchdog resigns

Los Angeles Police Department Inspector General Katherine Mader announced her resignation on 11 November 1998, after two and one-half years at the post. Mader's position was one of the most important reforms that followed the 1991 Christopher Commission report released in the aftermath of the Rodney G. King beating. Mader claimed the Los Angeles Police Commission was undercutting her work; the commission's executive director, Edith Perez, claimed Mader's work was inferior. Many advocates of police reform expressed the view that



Policing News & Trends

her resignation indicated continuing lack of commitment by the Police Commission to effective reform and oversight of the department. Following her resignation, at a 7 December 1998 hearing, the Los Angeles City Council's Public Safety Committee directed the city attorney to find ways to enhance the authority of the department's inspector general. Council member Laura Chick called for the hearing in the wake of a Police Commission memo that appeared to be an attempt to limit the inspector general's powers. Later that week Police Chief Bernard C. Parks wrote to city council members, complaining that proposed measures would give the inspector general too much power and would encroach on his responsibilities. The council later agreed to include the department in its efforts to define the role of the LAPD's inspector general. *Los Angeles Times*, 11 November, 8, 11, 16 December 1998

UNITED STATES: Federal, state civil rights probes for New York City The police shooting of Amadou Diallo, an unarmed immigrant, outside his Bronx apartment has prompted several investigations of policing in New York City. On 5 March 1999, the United States Commission on Civil Rights announced plans to conduct a hearing into the city's police practices and police-community relations. An ongoing investigation by the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice into the city's police policies and practices has also been expanded to increase scrutiny of the Street Crime Unit, the squad that includes the four officers who shot Diallo. The investigation will consider whether the unit has violated constitutional rights through "stop and frisk" tactics and similar practices. New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer has also announced plans for a civil rights investigation into allegations of race-based searches.

The New York Times, 6, 18, 19 March 1999

Civil Society Advances

For recent Ford grants in this area, see Grants List, pp. 10-11. **ARGENTINA:** *Center for Legal and Social Studies;* **BRAZIL:** *Brazilian Association of Post-Graduate Training and Research in the Social Sciences; Center for the Creation of Popular Images; Center for the Study of Violence; Human Rights Watch; Legal Assistance Office for Popular Organizations; Viva Rio;* **CHILE:** *Center for Development Studies; Center for Legal and Social Studies;* **INDIA:** *Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; Institute of Social Sciences; United Nations Development Fund for Women;* **RUSSIA:** *St. Petersburg University of Economics and Finance;* **UNITED STATES:** *Center for Constitutional Rights; Pace University Social Justice Center*

BRAZIL: NGO presents national plan for witness protection In March, GAJOP, the Legal Assistance Office for Popular Organizations, outlined a national plan for witness protection. In January 1999, GAJOP's innovative witness protection program, a partnership with federal and state authorities, marked its third anniversary. The program has been replicated in the states of Bahia and Espirito Santo, and five more states will adopt it in 1999. GAJOP is advocating a national witness protection program as a way of institutionalizing state-by-state efforts, providing more comprehensive and coordinated services to witnesses and victims of serious crime, and generating support for national legislation in support of victims' and witnesses' rights. *GAJOP Newsletter: Human Rights, March 1999*

INDIA: Chandigarh police head commits to improved community relations Shortly before she was scheduled to take up duties as inspector general of the Chandigarh Police, Kiran Bedi announced a goal of securing greater involvement of citizens in policing. Among the plans she discussed were establishing neighborhood police

officers, a new type of volunteer; regular meetings between police and nongovernmental organizations, particularly women's groups; and appointments of "a lot of special police officers, especially women, in each police station." Bedi said her goal was to create a new atmosphere in Chandigarh police stations within three months of assuming her new post on 15 March 1999. *The Times of India*, 1 March 1999

SOUTH AFRICA: NGOs propose gun-control initiative A coalition of NGOs under the umbrella of the Gun Control Alliance is launching the Charter for Gun Control. The campaign aims to persuade the authorities to issue firearm licenses only to those who can show a "special need," reducing the ownership of firearms for self-defense. Antigun lobby group Gun-Free South Africa says 30 people die from gunshots every day in South Africa. *Daily Mail and Guardian*, 10 Feb 1999

SOUTH AMERICA: Regional workshops on police reform Police and Democratic Society—a project that compares opportunities and strategies for police reform in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru—has sponsored a series of national workshops in recent months. A workshop in Lima, 23-24 November 1998, focused on internal and external control of the police; a Buenos Aires workshop, 1-2 December 1998, analyzed the recent processes of police reform in Buenos Aires and Santa Fe provinces; a workshop held 15 December 1998 in Rio de Janeiro examined how civil society institutions can contribute to internal and external oversight of police; and a Santiago workshop, 22 October 1998, focused on systems of internal and judicial control over police behavior. For information on these or future workshops, contact project coordinator Hugo Frühling of the Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo in Santiago, Chile (hfruhlin@abello.dic.uchile.cl).

Active Policing-Related Grants by the Ford Foundation

Argentina

Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS)

Martin Abregú, executive director
Rodríguez Peña 286, Piso 1
1020 Buenos Aires
Argentina
Tel 54 11 4371 9968
Fax 54 11 4371 3790
cels@cels.org.ar

For a project to promote democratic policing, building on the idea that effective police work must be respectful of human rights. The project aims to initiate new debate on reform models, including community-based policing; examine current security policies; and explore viable reforms to existing police organizations that would protect human rights. *A. Varas.*

Brazil

Brazilian Association of Post-Graduate Training and Research in the Social Sciences (ANPOCS)

Sergio Adorno, executive secretary
Av. Prof. Luciano Gualberto, 315 sala 116
05508-900 São Paulo, SP
Brazil
Tel/Fax 55 011 818-4664/818-5043
anpocs@org.usp.br

To support a three-part symposium on innovative security experiences, involving police practitioners and civil society organizations, to be held at the annual meeting of the Brazilian Social Science Association. *E. Leeds.*

Carioca Institute of Criminology

Carlos Magno Nazareth Cerqueira,
director
Av. Beira Mar 216, 3 Andar
20021-060 Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Brazil
Tel 55 21 263 2069
Fax 55 21 532 3435

For preparation of police training manuals on citizenship and human rights issues, for national distribution. *E. Leeds.*

Center for the Creation of Popular Images

Dinah Protásio Frotté
Largo de Sao Francisco de Paulo
34/3 Andar
20051-070 Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Brazil
Tel 55 21 509 3812
Fax 55 21 252 8604
cecip@ax.apc.org

For general support, including the production of audiovisual materials on violence against women and police training in the Northeast. *E. Telles.*

Center for the Study of Violence

Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, director
Universidade de São Paulo
Rua do Anfiteatro, 181
Colomia, Favo 11
Cidade Universitária
CEP 05508 São Paulo, SP
Brazil
Tel 55 11 818 3302/3577
Fax 55 11 818 3158

For an evaluation of recruitment and training practices in the São Paulo Military Police and the structure of incentives and career promotion criteria. Also for a study of cultural norms regarding forms of violence and the steps citizens take to resolve conflicts, including citizens' perceptions of experiences with the police. *E. Leeds and E. Telles.*

Human Rights Watch

James Cavallaro
Av. N.S. de Copacabana, 819
cobertura 01
CEP 22050-000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ
Brazil
Tel 55 21 9987 6541
Fax 55 21 549 9174
hrwatchrj@altenex.com.br

For a study on racial differences in sentencing and police violence. *E. Telles and A. Jenkins, Human Rights and International Cooperation.*

Legal Assistance Office for Popular Organizations (GAJOP)

Jayme Benvenuto Lima, Jr., coordinator
Rua do Apolo, 161, 1 Andar
Bairro do Recife/Recife, PE, Brazil
Tel 55 81 424 4212 Fax 55 81 224 9048
gajop@elogica.com.br

For human rights training for police and monitoring of violations in three north-eastern states. Also for a study of the Civil Police in Pernambuco, to examine institutional determinants of attitudes and behavior of northeast police. *E. Leeds.*

Muniz and Musumeci, Ltd.

Jacqueline de Oliveira Muniz
Rua Capistrano de Abreu, 33 apto. 301
Largo dos Leões
22271-000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Tel 55 21 266-4464 Fax 55 021 527-1816

For support of a study of innovative Military Police practices in seven states and for guidelines for future steps in Ford Foundation police programming. *E. Leeds.*

Viva Rio

Rubem César Fernandes
Elizabeth Sussekind
Ladeira da Glória, 98
CEP 22211-120 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Tel 55 21 556 5004/558 2559
Fax 55 21 558 1381
vivario@ax.apc.org

For training courses and consciousness raising for local community leaders, as well as courses in conflict mediation and conciliation. *E. Leeds.*

Chile

Center for Development Studies

Hugo Frühling, director
Nueva de Lyon 128/Correo 9/Santiago
Tel 56 2 231 2723/231 1953
Fax 56 2 232 6860
Hfruhlin@abello.dic.uchile.cl

For a project to improve accountability mechanisms related to internal security issues in South America, comparing developments in police reform in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. *A. Varas.*

Eastern Europe & Russia

Citizens' Watch

Boris Pustintsev, president
5, Malaya Koniushennaya
191186 St. Petersburg, Russia
Tel/Fax 7 812 325 8915
Citwatch@mail.wplus.net

For general support, including a public education campaign on police reform and a survey of citizens' encounters with the police in St. Petersburg. *M. McAuley.*

Czech Helsinki Committee

Jana Chrzova, executive director
Jeleni 5/199
P. O. Box 4
119 01 Prague, Czech Republic
Tel 42 6 2051 4190/2437-2334
Fax 42 6 2437-2335

For general support, including courses on human rights for police. *I. Gross.*

Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Marek Nowicki, president
ul. Bracka 18m 62
00-028 Warsaw, Poland
Tel/Fax 48 22 828 10 08
828 69 96
826 98 75
hfhrpol@ikp.atm.com.pl

For general support, including human rights training for police officers and others. *I. Gross.*

St. Petersburg Institute of Law

General Prosecutor's Office
Russian Federation
Valeri V. Novik, prorector
44. Liteiny prospekt
191104 St. Petersburg, Russia
Tel 7 812 279 8017/272 5140
Fax 7 812 279 8021

For a seminar for Russian and American prosecutors on special challenges of prosecuting police, and to develop strategies for prosecutors in both countries. *M. McAuley.*

St. Petersburg University of Economics and Finance

L. Tarasevich, rector
Sadovaia 21
191023 St. Petersburg, Russia
Tel 7 812 310 3823
Fax 7 812 110 5674

For a survey of citizens' encounters with the police in selected police districts in three St. Petersburg neighborhoods. *M. McAuley.*

Women's Rights Center

Urszula Nowakowska, president
ul. Wilcza 60, lok. 19
00-679 Warsaw, Poland
Tel 48 22 652 01 17/621 35 37
Temida@medianet.com.pl

For general support, including gender sensitivity courses for police. *I. Gross.*

India

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Maja Daruwala, director
F – 1/12 A, Hauz Khas Enclave
New Delhi 110 016, India
Tel 91 11 686 4678
Fax 91 11 686 4688
chriial@nda.vsnl.net.in

To initiate public dialogue and make recommendations to relevant government agencies on police reform. *M. Dutt.*

Institute of Social Sciences

Sankar Sen, senior fellow
B7/18 Safdarjang Enclave
New Delhi 110029, India
Tel 91 11 617 5451
Fax 91 11 618 5343

To facilitate national dialogue on police reform through workshops and seminars with police, government, and public institutions. *M. Dutt.*

United Nations Development Fund for Women

304 East 45th Street, 6th floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel 1 212 906 6400

For the creation of partnerships between NGOs and law-enforcement officials to address issues concerning violence against women. *M. Dutt.*

South Africa

University of Cape Town

Institute of Criminology
Dirk van Zyl Smit, director
Wilfried Scharf, head, Policing Project
Rondebosch 7700
Cape Town, South Africa
Tel 27 21 650 2988
Fax 27 21 650 3790

For the Policing Project and the Gender Project, whose work includes training police officers on gender violence interventions. *A. Brown.*

United States

Center for Constitutional Rights

Ron Daniels, executive director
Center for Constitutional Rights
666 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10012, USA
Tel 1 212 614 6464
Fax 1 212 614 6499

For racial justice activities, including litigation and advocacy around police misconduct and brutality against people of color and others. *A. Jenkins.*

Pace University Social Justice Center

Randolph Scott-McLaughlin, director
Pace University School of Law
78 North Broadway
White Plains, NY 10603, USA
Tel 1 914 422 4172
Fax 1 914 422-4171

For research, advocacy, and organizing against police misconduct. *A. Jenkins.*

Meetings and Conferences

July

Migration, Culture Conflict and Crime
5-8 July 1999
Kibbutz Maale' Hamisha near
Jerusalem, Israel
CONTACT: Professor Shlomo G.
Shoham, The Buchman Faculty of Law,
Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv
69978, Israel, shoham@post.tau.ac.il

**Annual Conference on Criminal
Justice Research and Evaluation**
18-21 July 1999
Washington, D.C., USA
CONTACT: Institute for Law and Justice
Tel 1 703 684 5300

**National Criminal Justice Association
Annual Membership Meeting**
19-21 July 1999
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
CONTACT: National Criminal Justice
Association (NCJA), 444 North Capitol
Street NW, Suite 618, Washington, D.C.
20001, USA
Tel 1 202 624 1440

August

**First International Conference
on Crime and Public Policy in the
Pacific Rim**
18-21 August 1999
San Francisco, California, USA
CONTACT: California State University,
Sacramento, Regional and Continuing
Education, 6000 J Street, Sacramento,
California 95819-6103, USA
Tel 1 916 278 4433 ext. 200

**Meeting of the International
Association of Forensic Sciences**
22-28 August 1999
Los Angeles, California, USA
CONTACT: International Association of
Forensic Sciences (IAFS),
2020 West Beverly Boulevard, Los
Angeles, California 90057, USA
Tel 1 213 974 4601

September

**Innovative Practices in Victim
Offender Mediation and Conferencing**
14-19 September 1999
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA
CONTACT: Bruce Kittle, Restorative
Justice Project, University of Wisconsin
Law School, 975 Bascom Mall, Madison,
WI 53706, USA
Tel 1 608 262-4013
bakittle@facstaff.wisc.edu
www.igc.org/voma/

November

**International Association of Chiefs of
Police Annual Conference and Expo**
30 October-4 November 1999
Charlotte, North Carolina, USA
CONTACT: International Association of
Chiefs of Police (IACP), 515 North
Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia
22314-2357, USA
Tel 1 800 THE IACP
www.theiacp.org

**National Conference on
Preventing Crime**
2-6 November 1999
Washington, D.C., USA
CONTACT: National Crime Prevention
Council (NCPC), 1700 K Street NW,
Second Floor, Washington, D.C.
20006-3817, USA
Tel 1 202 466 6272

**Problem-Oriented Policing
Conference**
13-16 November 1999
San Diego, California, USA
CONTACT: Police Executive Research
Forum (PERF), 1120 Connecticut
Avenue NW, Suite 930, Washington,
D.C. 20036, USA
Tel 1 202 466 7820
www.policeforum.org

**American Society of Criminology
Annual Meeting 1999**
17-20 November 1999
Toronto, Canada
CONTACT: American Society of
Criminology (ASC), 1314 Kinnear Road,
Columbus, Ohio 43212-1156, USA
Tel 1 614 292 9207

December

**International Criminal Justice—
Public Safety Expo and Conference**
8-9 December 1999
New York, New York, USA
CONTACT: John Jay College of Criminal
Justice, 899 Tenth Avenue, New York,
New York 10019, USA
Tel 1 212 237 8000

DEMOCRATIC POLICING EXCHANGE is produced twice a year by the Vera Institute of Justice for the Ford Foundation. It aims to foster dialogue on public safety and police accountability among practitioners, researchers, and funders.

Please submit news, conference, and publication items to Nancy Vorsanger, editor, Vera Institute of Justice, 377 Broadway, New York, NY 10013, nvorsanger@vera.org.

The Vera Institute of Justice is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to making government policies fairer, more humane, and more efficient. Working in collaboration with public officials and communities in New York and throughout the world, Vera designs and implements innovative programs that expand the practice of justice and improve the quality of urban life. Christopher E. Stone, Director